

Environmental Management System (EMS)

What is an EMS?

An EMS is a recognized, sound business procedure designed to increase effectiveness and efficiency through better management of environmental issues. It is a continual cycle of planning, implementing, reviewing, and improving the various ways our location interacts with the environment. This includes how we purchase supplies, store chemicals and fuel, use electricity and other utilities, use and conserve water, and recycle used items and dispose of wastes. This framework allows us to consistently and effectively address the effect our operations may have on the environment, embracing a concept of continual improvement.

- *Executive Order 13148, "Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management "*, required each Federal Agency to develop and implement an Environmental Management System by December 31, 2005.
- Other Executive Orders have been implemented to define the scope of our EMS:
- E.O. 13101, *Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition*
- E. O. 13123, *Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management*
- E.O. 13134, *Developing and Promoting Biobased Products and Bioenergy*
- E.O. 13149, *Greening the Government through Federal Fleet and Transportation Efficiency*

Our EMS is designed to ensure that we:

1. continue to provide a safe, healthy workplace for our employees and act as a responsible member of our community.
2. meet or exceed all applicable environmental standards.
3. reduce pollution by employing sustainable pollution prevention and conservation practices.

Environmental Management System Policy Statement

J. Phil Campbell, Sr. Natural Resource Conservation Center

The mission of the J. Phil Campbell Sr., Natural Resource Conservation Center (JPC) is to develop and transfer environmentally sustainable and profitable agricultural systems to land owners and managers in order to protect the natural resource base, build accord with non-agricultural sectors, and support healthy rural economies.

Embracing this mission, JPC strives to continually improve our environmental performance under the following guidelines.

- Create and maintain a policy of commitment for wise environmental management.
- Develop, implement and annually update goals and objectives to enhance our environmental program regarding both regulated and unregulated impacts.
- Consider environmental impacts when planning research objectives and protocols, implementing management and cultural practices, and managing operating decisions and purchasing.
- Identify and comply with requirements of Federal, State and local laws , regulations, and permits; and Department of Agriculture and ARS policies and procedures.
- Identify, and request to management the necessary resources to successfully meet plan goals and objectives within given time frames and financial restrictions.
- Assure personnel are aware of their environmental roles and responsibilities, by providing appropriate training, holding employees accountable for their actions, and recognizing them for outstanding performance.
- Monitor our environmental operations by conducting inspections, audits and reviews to ascertain that we meet applicable standards while evaluating our program's effectiveness.
- Document and report progress, achievements and deficiencies in a timely manner and take appropriate steps to acknowledge their occurrence or prevent their recurrence.

Dwight Fisher, Research Leader